



Erasmus+



How can we save our planet?

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ROMANIA



ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS - ECOLOGY AND CONSCIOUSNESS

"A new way of thinking is needed if people want to survive."- Albert Einstein

ECOLOGY (from the Greek words: oikos - house and logos - science, meaning "the science of habitat study") is a synthetic biological science that studies the interaction between organisms, plants and the environment in which they live (abiotics and biotics). For this, ecology closely analyzes the structure, function and productivity of supra-individual biological systems (populations, biocenoses) and mixed systems (ecosystems). Over time, in the second half of the XX century by becoming aware of the importance of environmental conditions, the meaning of the term ecology has expanded beyond the narrow meaning of biology, becoming a synonym for the idea of environmental protection. Ecology is largely a descriptive and experimental science.

In ecology, many methods borrowed from other disciplines are used: mathematical methods to model the evolution of populations, physiological methods to understand the life of organisms, geological methods to describe the properties of the soil, etc.

CONSCIOUSNESS (the term "consciousness" is derived from the Latin term "con scientia" which means "knowledge") is the feeling of understanding personal existence and integrating it into the universe. It is the most evolved form, specific to humans, of psychic reflection of objective reality through sensations, perceptions and thinking, in the form of representations, notions, judgments, reasoning, including emotional and volitional processes. Consciousness can also be considered as a feeling that man has about the morality of his actions.

From a psychological point of view, consciousness is a way of knowing the outer and inner world.

Ecological education is preparing the individual to make correct behavioral decisions, regarding the protection of the environment, to decide knowingly and on his own initiative, in the multitude of ecological problems he may encounter daily but ecological consciousness involves the formation of a new attitude towards nature, the formation of skills, habits, competencies ecological, to create values and appropriate behavior.



Ecological consciousness is formed not only through the outer world of human knowledge, but also through the comprehension of human intimate universe manifested in his behavior towards/in the environment.

Ecological consciousness is composed of two distinct components: one of a practical nature and the other of a scientific - theoretical nature. Practical ecological awareness is formed spontaneously, as a result of people's practical activity. It represents the primary form of human perception of place and its role in relation to the environment.

The ecological consciousness of society exists through the ecological consciousness of individuals, consciousness individual ecological being largely determined by the values of the society in which we live, by social consciousness.

Human society is characterized by patterns of relationships (social relationships) between people, so, in order to form and develop the ecological consciousness of our children it is important to recognize our own level of ecological consciousness, to what extent we are truly an example for those around us, how we can improve and increase this level.

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LITHUANIA



LET'S PROTECT NATURE BY RECYCLING CREATIVELY

Recycling is a particularly relevant topic these days. This is important for both adults and the smallest. Children who are taught from an early age receive important foundations in protecting nature, evaluating what surrounds us and in what environment we live, will live and leave it to future generations. Recycling is usually an important skill developed in most kindergarten curriculums.

In order to develop skills on the topic of sorting and recycling, various promotions, activities and projects on the topic of sorting and recycling are conducted. To make the topic interesting and catch the curiosity of the learners, it can be made creative by adding different shades.

The conservation projects carried out in the Kėdainiai nursery-kindergarten "Puriena" encourage the community to protect the environment, make it more sustainable, and to be interested in what would make us experts and real guardians of nature. The purpose of recycling is to encourage children to sort and recycle from a young age and to understand that some waste can be used more than once. Well, how to make it creative and attractive? First of all, we use the materials and tools that are in our immediate environment - both in groups and in outdoor spaces. Group teachers with pupils, by using various available resources, carry out useful and creative activities both inside and in the outdoor spaces of the institution. Pupils become curious, inquisitive and knowledgeable about waste sorting. Children learn how to sort, recycle and reuse by organizing their understanding of language, people, and objects in their environment. This helps them construct an understanding of how the different parts of their environment relate to themselves and to each other.

Involvement of parents is also important in joint activities where they create spaces in the home environment by teaching their little ones to recycle and reuse waste at home.

Various national and international projects that our institution implements with social partners, trips to nature and other traditional and/or individual educational activities provide many artistic ideas. All of them can be used to develop recycling and sorting skills through imagination. For instance, recycling can be done by using

sorting containers, by organizing field trips, reading stories, creating crafts and complex structures, preparing reports, leaflets and many other methods that we use on daily basis with our pupils.

Our institution participates in campaigns such as "Kamštelių vėjus" (*the feast of bottle lids*), collection campaigns for household appliances, national and international projects with QR codes, exhibitions, etc. All educational activities are meant to make recycling more enjoyable and meaningful, as well as develop a habit of being eco-friendly.



LITHUANIAN TEAM

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TURKEY



Recycling Activities at Keskesler Kindergarten

Our school's waste team was formed from volunteer students. Our students tell their friends "What is recycling?" in their classrooms. The zero waste team told other students what they can do to prevent paper waste. Conversion of an unused product into another usable product, and being able to look at events from different perspectives. We made necklaces from tree cones. We made bags from old t-shirts. To gain awareness of being sensitive to the environment We built a cat house from box.

Awareness of being sensitive to the environment. The ability to produce new ideas and be open to innovations gives the ability to look at events from different perspectives. Making compost fertilizers: It is one of the activities that we implement in our school every year and that attracts the attention of our students. They love growing plants with the compost we make.

The most important thing that supports learning is the materials used. Objects that we recycle in daily life can be used by children as learning materials. We aim to raise children who will understand and protect the eco system via our classroom activities.

We designed recycled mathematics materials in the Mathematics Centers we created as part of our "First Step in Mathematics" erasmus project in our classrooms. In addition to the materials we recycle, we have used laminated materials to ensure that many students benefit from the same materials without wasting them.

Every year we organize a plastic cap collection competition in our school. Caps collected over a period of time are weighed. The 3 students who collect the most caps receive awards. The collected caps are delivered to the disabled association on June 5, Environment Day. Certificates are given to the students participating in the competition.

Recycling Activities at Keskesler Kindergarten

We rewarded the students by holding a cover collection contest.

Our students made drama presentations that gave a message about ecological sensitivity.

We transformed the hobby garden area of our school into a colorful garden area with recycled materials such as old tires, trash cans, tree branches.



TURKISH TEAM

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GREECE



How to be more eco friendly!

Being eco-friendly has been increasingly promoted as an essential way of our life. Since we realised that natural resources are not unlimited, we have been seeking ways of leading a life that will help to protect the environment and our planet!

Being eco-friendly at home:

Although homes might not pollute as much as companies do, there are many things that we can do to make our home a more eco-friendly house. It is important to make a change wherever possible and our home is something we have control over- so why not make a change? Turning our lights off and using renewable energy for electricity are two easy ways to save energy at home. Also, by introducing the use of eco-cleaning products at home we minimise the use of toxic chemicals that pollute the air and water! Reuse-Reduce-Recycle! These three Rs have become essential principles to our everyday life. Instead of throwing things away, we should always think whether we can use it somewhere else, recycle it or (if none of the above mentioned apply) reduce their use! Protecting our planet starts from these small everyday things!

Getting around:

Extensive use of our cars leads to both air pollution and energy consumption. Walking instead of getting our car for short distances not only helps to save energy but also promotes a healthy lifestyle! Diesel and petrol fuelled cars are major contributors to global warming. By replacing our car to electric vehicles, we use a more sustainable source of energy that does not produce air pollutants and toxics. Moreover, we can use public transport to save energy and avoid polluting the air as an easy way to get around for long distances.



What we eat:

Although it might be hard to make the link between our eating habits and the protection of the environment, there are lots of easy steps to follow to make a difference to our planet! First of all, we should try to reduce the consumption of meat and dairy products, as they seem to be responsible for the majority of the greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural industry. Moreover, we should try to reduce our food waste and try to use as much of this waste for composting. Planning our meals ahead and buying reasonably can help reduce the waste of food in our lives.

Awareness is the first step, but action is what is really needed as an intact planet is what really matters. The question is not only how but when to start to live sustainably. Will we make the difference starting today?

RESOURCES:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/feb/29/50-ways-to-green-up-your-life-save-the-planet>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-47990742>

<https://www.goodenergy.co.uk/the-ultimate-20-step-guide-to-eco-friendly-living/>

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